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August 16, 2004

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Cambridge Electric Light Company/Commonwealth Electric Company,
D.T.E. 03-118

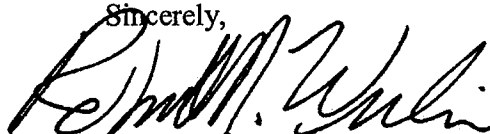
Dear Secretary Cottrell:

The Attorney General and Cambridge Electric Light Company/Commonwealth Electric Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric (the "Parties") are engaged in settlement negotiations in the above-referenced, pending reconciliation case. Under the procedural schedule established by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the "Department"), evidentiary hearings are to begin on August 24, 2004. In order to permit sufficient time for the Parties to complete their settlement negotiations, they jointly request that the hearing dates be deferred. A settlement agreement was successfully negotiated and filed with the Department last week in the related case for Boston Edison Company (D.T.E. 03-117). The filing of that case should facilitate speedy resolution of a settlement in this proceeding.

Since the submittal of the supplemental filing, no discovery has been issued by the Attorney General or the Department. Accordingly, to provide sufficient time to conduct discovery and for the parties to complete settlement negotiations, the Parties request that the Department defer the commencement of hearings until October 13, 2004. If the Parties have not filed a settlement agreement by October 8, 2004, they will provide a status report on that date.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert N. Werlin

cc: Caroline Bulger, Hearing Officer
Service List